PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

May 13, 2013

Penn\*Link

TO: School District Superintendents

School District Special Education Directors

Intermediate Unit Executive Directors

Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors

Charter Schools Chief Executive Officers

Charter Schools Special Education Directors

Approved Private Schools Executive Directors

FROM: John J. Tommasini, Director

Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Secondary Transition: Updates on College Policies from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has sought and received approval from the Pennsylvania Vocational Rehabilitation Board to institute several policy changes concerning postsecondary educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

Beginning with the 2013 fall semester, the maximum yearly financial support offered by OVR in the first two years in which a student is engaged in postsecondary education will be based on the average tuition rate charged by Pennsylvania's community colleges. Students may still opt to attend a four-year school, but OVR's support will be reimbursed at the community college rate. Additionally, OVR will limit financial support for books and supplies up to $500 per year for new students. Finally, as OVR is party to agreements with many community colleges and schools within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, OVR policy now reflects the belief that students requiring disability-specific services can acquire those services at these institutions without disadvantage.

Please keep these changes in mind when assisting transition-age students who are considering postsecondary education.

Should you have any questions about these policy changes, please contact your nearest OVR district office or call (800) 442-6351 for assistance in locating district office contact information.